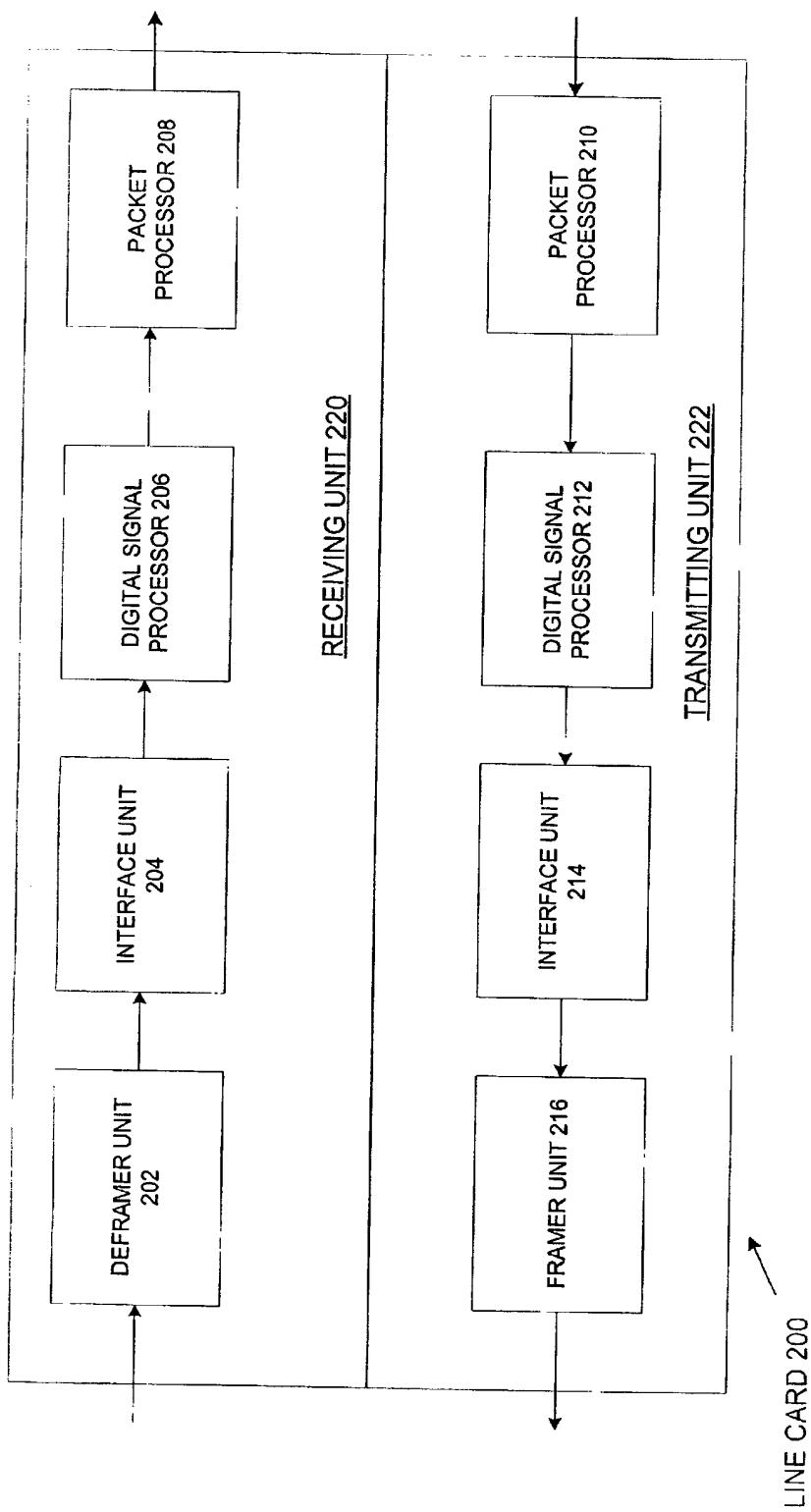
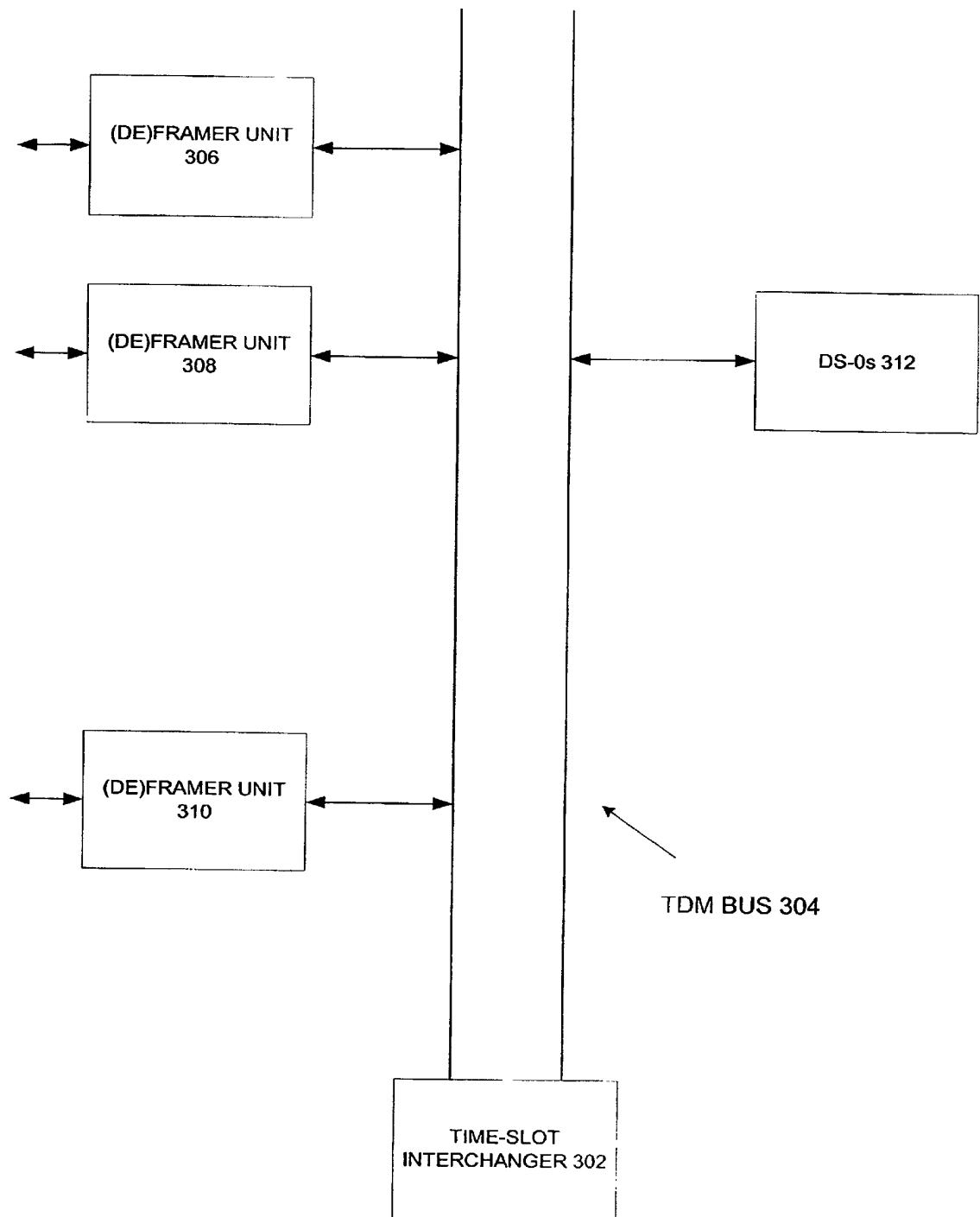


**FIG. 1 (prior art)**



**FIG. 2 (prior art)**



**FIG. 3 (prior art)**

non-ring network element 410  
in-ring network element 402  
in-ring network element 408  
in-ring network element 404  
in-ring network element 406  
non-ring network element 411  
in-ring network element 412

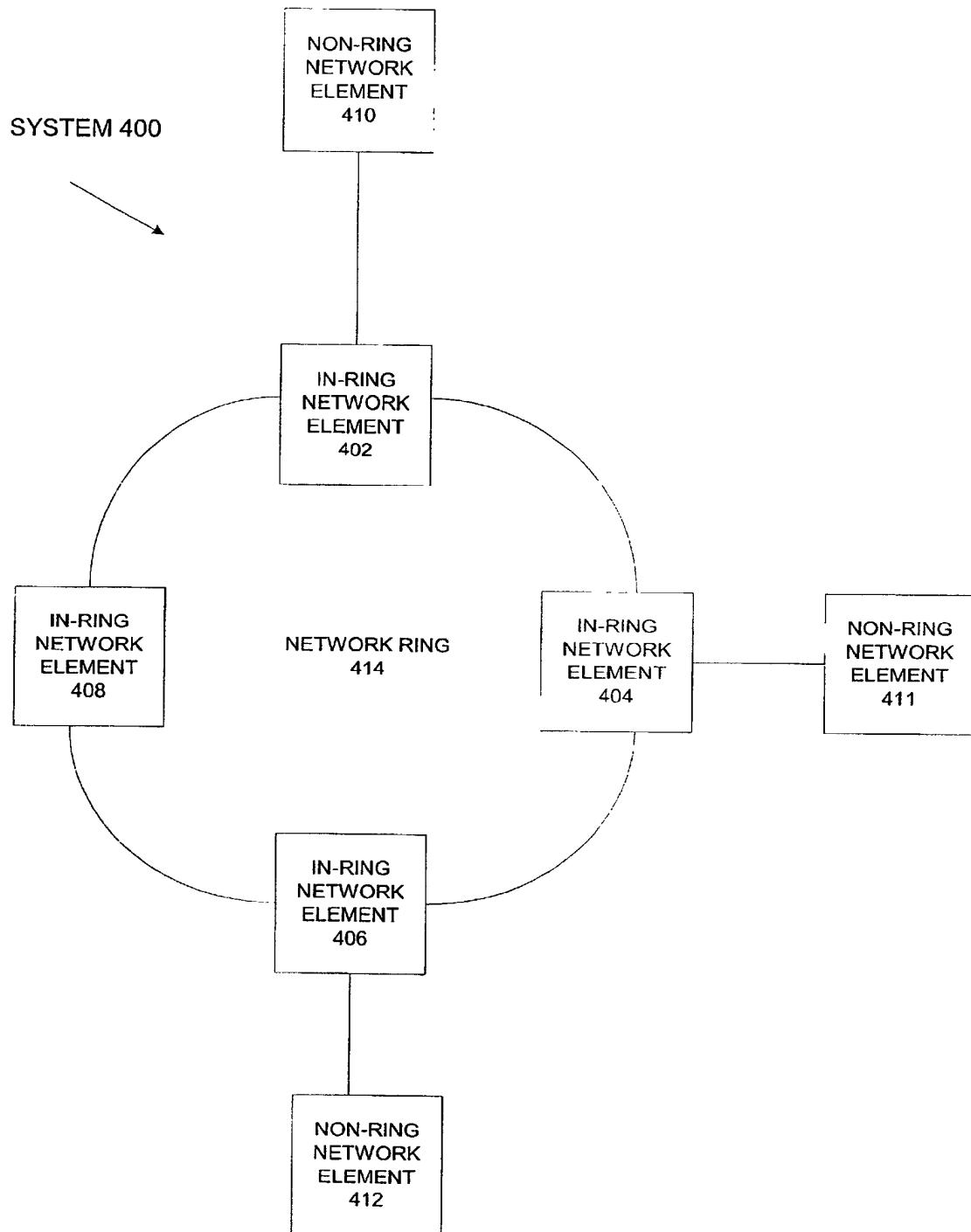
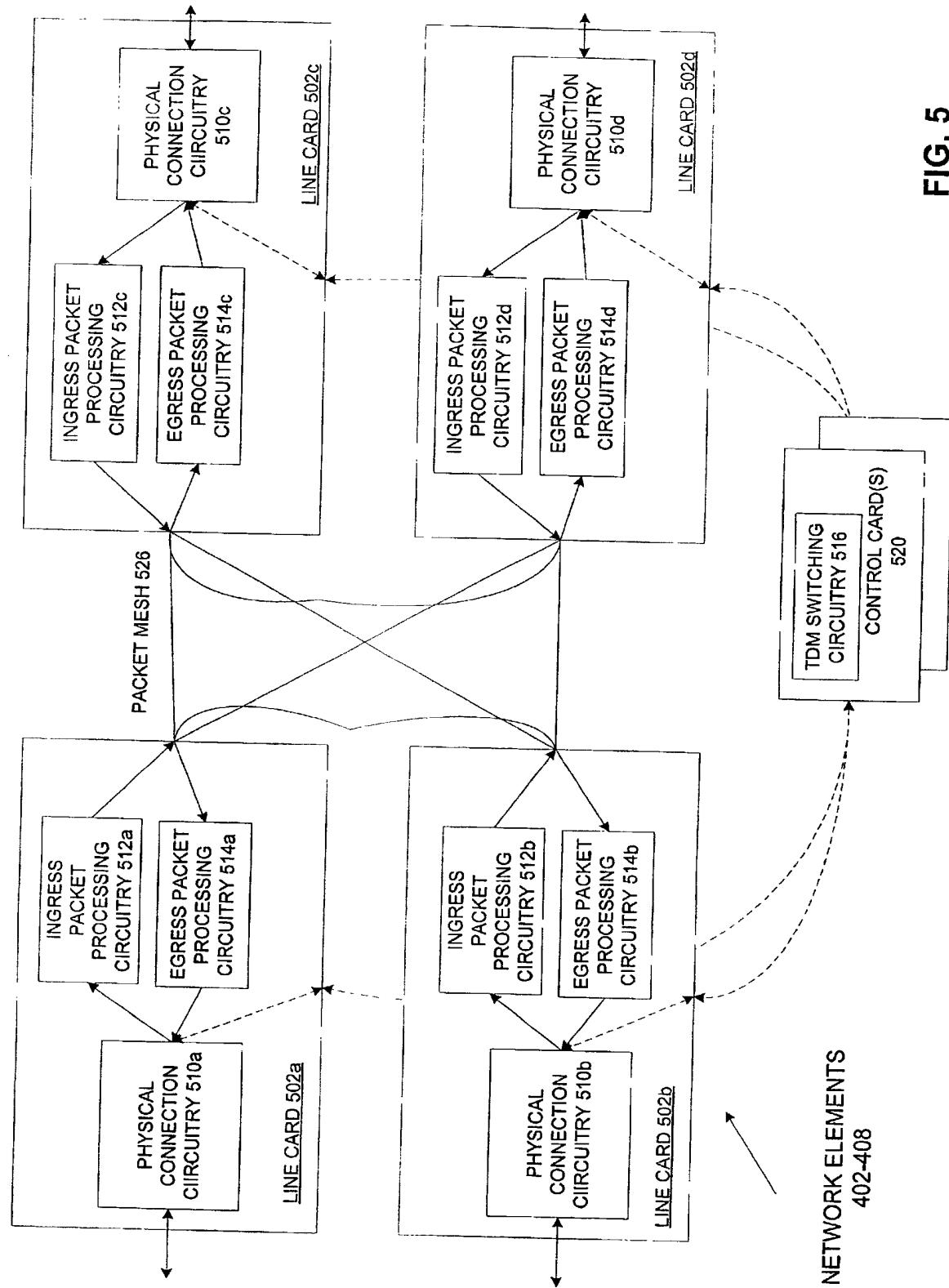


FIG. 4



**FIG. 5**

NETWORK ELEMENTS  
402-408

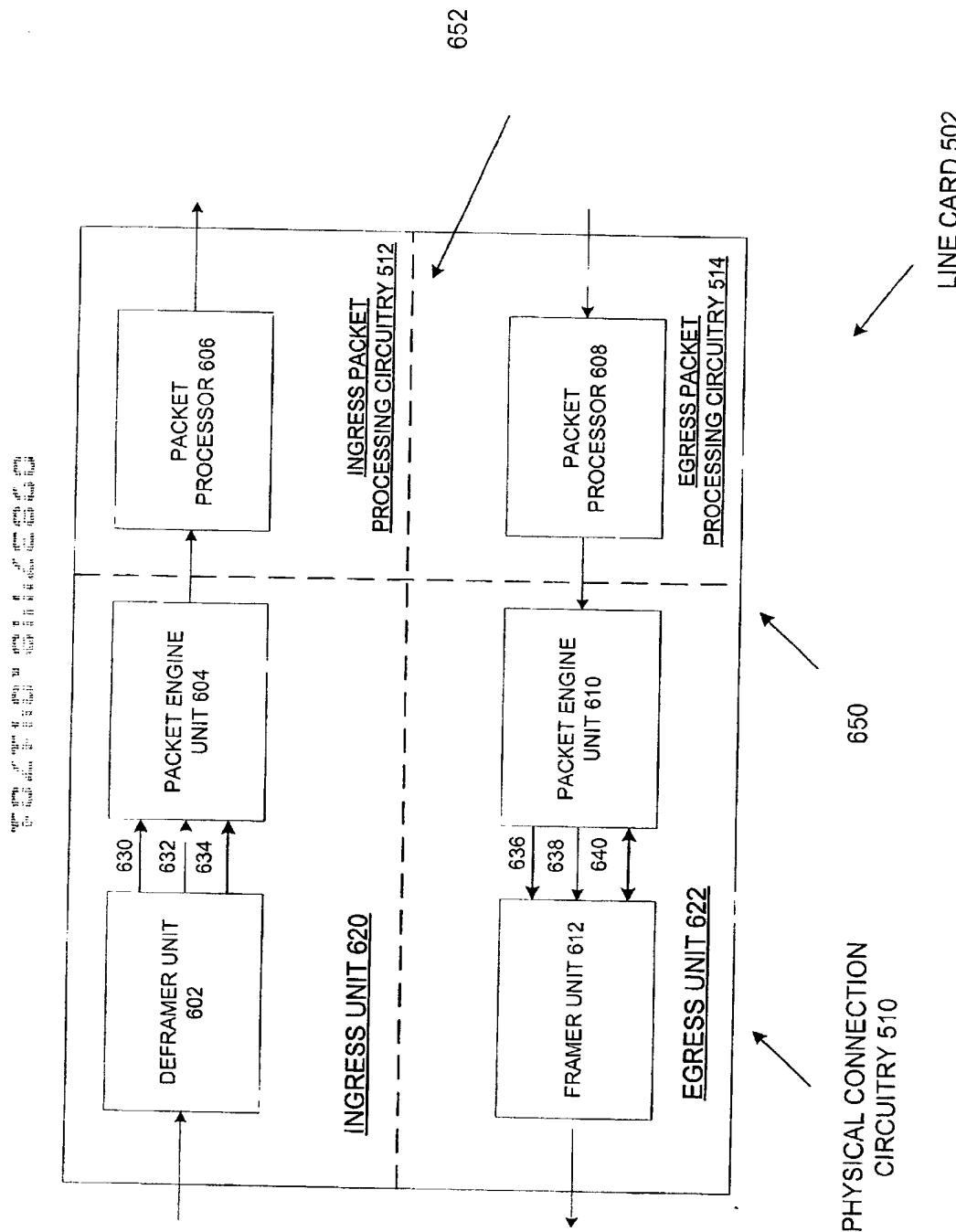
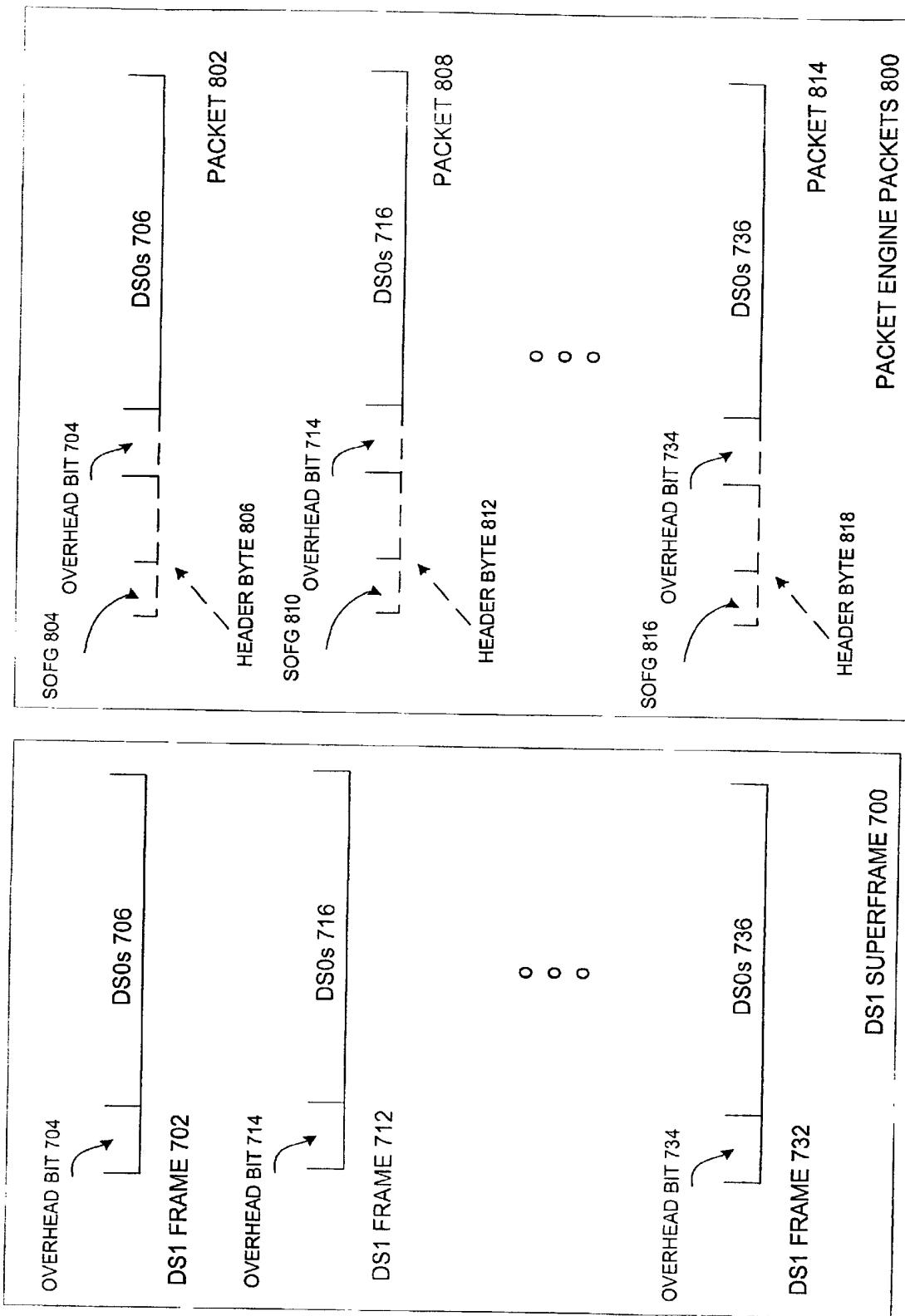


FIG. 6



**FIG. 7**

**FIG. 8**